



Arlington Open Space Committee

Date: December 7, 2023.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation.

Present: Brian McBride, Shirley Canniff, Brian Kelder, Wendy Richter, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, David Morgan, Ann LeRoy, David White.

Absent: Eliza Hatch, Nelson Mui.

Minutes.

1. Administrative

- a. Approval of November 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

Based on attendance we decided to wait until January to discuss and approve.

- b. Other items.

Please complete your annual mandatory conflict of interest training if you have not already done so.

2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) & CPA Implementation (Action Items)

- a. OSRP Objectives – Implementation (Outdoor programs, Ecology Summit).

Kids programming. Shirley Canniff pointed out that we need to get a little bit more clarity on what we are proposing to figure out who would be responsible (ACE or Parks and Rec). Check back in January to discuss. Shirley will reach out if there is a time crunch prior to that meeting.

David White suggested a program such as winter tracking for next year. Perhaps could do some things as informal one-off events.

Check in with Eliza Hatch on this topic per her interest.

- b. Urban Ecology Framework application (EcoFest, other outreach).

David Morgan – first week in January would likely be a good time to check in with EcoFest folks regarding Ecology summit. He will mention to Charlotte Milan and Rachel Oliveri to understand timing and process.

Possible framework

- Present urban ecology framework.
- Have stakeholders respond and have discussion about it.



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Action item: Set a meeting with Rachel and Charlotte if possible.

- c. CPA projects (Public Land Management Plan, McClennen Park retention Ponds, No Name Brook, Orchard Signage).

Public Land Management Plan, and McClennen Park Retention Ponds proposals submitted within next week or two for final application.

No Name Brook – was combined with Mill Brook project. David Morgan will get contractor under contract for that work. The first tasks are survey, data collection, modeling while David is on leave. David White shared that there should be a lot of existing information regarding hydrology for Mill Brook.

Orchard Signage – David Morgan – Can this wait until March?

Elisabeth Carr-Jones asked about volunteers to reach out to. Shirley Caniff mentioned ACAC (Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture) as a possible collaborator. ACAC has grant funding for murals. They have approached the Park and Recreation Commission asking for places. Ann LeRoyer will reach out to Cecily Miller from ACAC to inquire.

- d. Other Items.

Add to next month's agenda: Ann LeRoyer – go back to Open space plan and check out the short-term objectives. Identify progress, responsible parties, etc.

3. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Department of Planning and Community Development. (David Morgan)

New Assistant Director of planning starts next week.

Will keep working on land transfers/swaps between departments – will follow up after leave.

Rezoning proposal for open spaces that are not zoned as such. David Morgan wonders if OSC would want to bring that forward or if it would come from the Planning Department. Recommendation would need to be brought to the ARB prior to December 18 to see if it gets on the warrant. Discussion about who it is best to come from.

Planning will submit and OSC will provide a letter of support. Ann LeRoyer and Elisabeth Carr-Jones will draft a letter for OSC to submit.

- b. Park and Recreation Commission. (Shirley Caniff)

Robbins Farm Park playground is progressing nicely.



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Parallel Park and Menotomy Rocks Park playgrounds had public meetings this week with architects. Well received concepts at the public meetings.

c. Conservation Commission. (David Morgan and David White)

Had meetings for Mount Gilboa last weekend – 50 people at each the in-person and the school meetings. Many different views expressed.

David M is working on getting submerged aquatic invasive plants dealt with for Arlington Reservoir (water chestnut and curly leaf pondweed, Nyads) and Hills Pond – HABcontracts.

Need to amend contract for Spy Pond to include Phragmites control.

d. Department of Public Works.

No updates.

e. Envision Arlington.

No updates.

f. Arlington Redevelopment Board.

Expecting all of the zoning articles to be presented December 18.

g. Other Committees

Tree Committee – Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Brian McBride are working with folks to develop an article for shade in parking lots.

Mugar (Thorndike Place) next meeting is Thursday, December 14.

4. Updates/Discussion (Tracking)

a. Town Meeting articles for 2024.

b. Artificial Turf (Study Committee, High School and Arlington Catholic fields).

Initial meeting last Tuesday. David M is part of the study group. He was there discussing scope for the study. Meetings will be open for public viewing.

c. CPA FY23 updates (Cooke's Hollow, Mt. Gilboa, Robbins Farm Park).

Onsite wrap party for the Cooke's Hollow project summarized findings and concept level recommendations from the consultant.



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Submitted EOI for MVP funding requesting \$700,000 for design and permitting for Cooke's Hollow to the Lower Mystic Lake. Potentially use CDBG funds as match for MVP. Might be able to move forward with Cooke's Hollow.

d. CPA FY24 (Hill's Hill, Invasives, Mill Brook, Pond Lane, Foot of the Rocks).

Brian McBride said Hill's Hill working group has been meeting. Public meetings have been taking place with good dialogue. Question that has come up whether there could be swaps of sections that took lower value trees.

Invasives – Preliminary report done – final should be by end of year.

Mill Brook is currently in the contracting process.

Pond Lane – public process will begin when David Morgan gets back from leave.

Foot of the Rocks – public meeting and design presentation will take place on December 12 at 7 pm on Zom.

e. CPA FY 25 (Public Land Management Plan, McClennen Park ponds, Menotomy Rocks Park playground, Parallel Park playground)

Public Land Management Plan, McClennen – will need letters of support from people including us by (soon) look at proposals online and David will send us draft language.

f. 40B Comprehensive Permit Projects (Thorndike Place, 1021 Mass Ave, Mirak).

Thorndike Place meeting is coming up soon.

There are no updates on construction timing for 1021 Mass Ave.

g. Other Items.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones – MYRWA is holding a climate change workshop Saturday, December 9, 11-2 Arlington Community Center.

2024 Meetings (4th Thursdays except Nov and Dec):

Jan 25	May 23	Sep 26
Feb 22	Jun 27	Oct 24
Mar 28	Jul 25	Nov 14
Apr 25	Aug 22	Dec 12